Un. Theolg. Sem. N.Y. City Apr 21st 1847

Dear Brother Wright.

I intended to write to the Soc of Inq. at Princeton early last month. but neglected it continually; until last week. I rec'd a letter from Bro Nelles. in answer to one I had written to him. and then felt how careless I had been. I spoke in that letter to him of a matter that I should have presented more formally to you as the Cor. Sec of the Soc. I mentioned it to him as it came into my mind without any definite thought as to whether it would be acted upon or not. not treating either the Soc or you very respectfully.

At the meeting of our Society in March. it was resolved to enter into a more extended. and more frequent correspondence with our brethren in other Seminaries. and to this end. and not to burden our Cor. Sec. too much a correspondent was appointed for each Seminary. and in order that this correspondence might have as little of formality. and as much of the freedom of private intercourse as possible. such were appointed. as were most intimate in the different Seminaries.

We would not, of course, thereby wish to interfere with your present arrangements. but shall be very glad to correspond with your Soc. through yourself or whoever else may be the proper officer. ∓

I suppose the principal object of our correspondence & Societies, is, that being more freely and fully acquainted with each others condition. we may be brought into more closer sympathy with each other. as fellow Members of Christs body, and brethren in a peculiar sense. and that we may watch more eagerly and more intelligently the signs of the times. more conspicuously displayed on these high towers of Zion. In the developements of Gods designs. with reference to the establishment of the kingdom of His dear Son. we may expect Seminaries to occupy a conspicuous place. It is not the enemy alone who is busy in preparation for a great battle. Mustering his forces and preparing his weapons. God is not looking on listlessly. His preparation perhaps makes less parade. but is not less vigorously carried on. and where are we to look for it, but in these armories? Here He will furbish his instruments. The work goes on noiselessly. Like Solomons temple no axe or hammer is heard. It is the Spirits work on the heart. This we must expect to see. beyond all usual experience before Gods work can go on. The present standard of piety in the ministry. will not do for such a time. God will will have holy men. very holy men. "full of faith and the Holy Ghost" and "knowing nothing but Christ and Him crucified" for this work. and if we. of this generation are not willing to be such. to set ourselves apart for eminent holiness. we shall be turned back to wander in the wilderness. and the next generation take possession of the land.

Our Heavenly Father has been dealing with us, as with sons. not allowing us to go unconnected. He has taken from us to Himself. one of our number. whom we looked upon as preparing for prominent usefulness. who had been making most rapid and astonishing progress in spiritual growth the whole of this term. and was a christian of uncommon attainments in holiness.

He died a triumphant death. He had consecrated himself to the missionary work. and about 12 or 15 hours before his death. when told that he could not live he said He was ready to go to the heathen or to heaven as God pleased. And when asked again in the course of the day how he felt in so near a prospect of heaven. gave an answer that deserves to be studied and thoroughly understood by every one of us. "I feel just as I did when I determined to be a missionary"

Is complete consecration so much like looking into heaven? Does it give such joy?

But God did not mean that the heathen should be losers by his death. It has given a new impulse to the missionary cause among us. and many more have been called to consider their duty to a lost world.

We needed the chastisement. We have resisted God and vexed His Holy Spirit. He has shown a most peculiar desire to sanctify us. and fit us for His work. but we have not yielded fully to Him. and wrought ourselves with fear and trembling. because He was working in us. We have not sought for holiness as for hid treasure. But He seems determined that we shall not refuse

the blessing. He has done great things for us. this year. whereof we are glad. He has blessed us beyond measure in spiritual things. but we are persuaded He has not yet accomplished His designs. that His intentions are far beyond what He has done. and we wait for greater blessings that are on the way.

He meant this chastisement for good. We think the Interpreter has taught us the lesson He would have us learn by it. and that He has wrought in us a spirit of earnest seeking after holiness. of utter dissatisfaction with our present piety. and a thirsting longing spirit for a richer baptism of the Holy Ghost. And we have this one thing to desire of God. that He would so sanctify us and fill us with the Holy Ghost. that He can use us as mighty instruments in carrying on His work.

We dare not go forth till we are endued with power from on high. till we are emptied of self. and of all intellectual pride and dependence upon any thing in or of ourselves. and filled with the power of Christ dwelling in our heart by faith. May we all, brethren, feel our peculiar responsibility in this day. to be eminently holy. Pray without ceasing for a pentecostal baptism on all our Seminaries. and when away from our closets bear this burden on our hearts continually. so that we cannot beat ease. but like the dove finding no rest for the sole of her foot. come back to the secret place of prayer to cast our burden upon the Lord. Carry with us all the day this hungering & thirsting. longing spirit panting after holiness. "For He satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with good."

In behalf of the Society
E. M. Dodd

We should be glad of an answer before your vacation commences